

Recognitions at December 2007 State Board Meeting

Four State Board of Education members whose terms were expiring at the end of 2007 were honored at the December meeting. Recognitions at this meeting also focused on the 42nd year of South Carolina's Teacher of the Year Program. A total of 83 teachers took part in the 2007-2008 program, with five finalists advancing through the process. One was chosen as South Carolina Teacher of the Year. The other four are serving as the state's Honor Roll Teachers for this year. Honor Roll Teachers receive \$10,000 each, a Dell computer and a set of Michelin tires. The Teacher of the Year participates in a one-year residency program at the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention and Advancement (CERRA) and serves as a statewide ambassador for the profession. The Teacher of the Year also receives a \$25,000 cash award, a Dell laptop computer, a set of Michelin tires and a 2007 BMW Z-4 roadster (manufactured at BMW's South Carolina plant) to use for a year.

- **Honor Roll Teacher Linda M. Dowling**

State Superintendent of Education Jim Rex and State Board of Education member Hampton Hubbard (left in photo) congratulate Honor Roll Teacher Linda M. Dowling, a middle school language arts teacher at Sonovista Alternative School in Darlington County. She is National Board-certified and has taught for 27 years. Dowling has taught her students to be active readers, to be engaged with the text, ask questions, make connections and predict. This allows for differences of opinion and discussions that can be deep and rewarding.



- **Honor Roll Teacher Ilona Lawless Sunday**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board of Education member Diane Sumpter (left in photo) congratulate Honor Roll Teacher Ilona Lawless Sunday, a science teacher at Crayton Middle School in Richland School District 1. She is National Board-certified and says that her students never cease to remind her that they are children, not small adults, and she must strive to see things through their eyes. Sunday watches closely to learn from her students so that she can better connect with and teach them.



- **Honor Roll Teacher Dawn Smith**

State Superintendent Jim Rex and State Board of Education member Diane Sumpter (left in photo) congratulate Honor Roll Teacher Dawn Smith, a fourth-grade teacher at Bookman Road Elementary School in Richland School District 2. A sixth-year teacher, Smith is National Board-certified and says that teaching is a high calling and often a daunting task. In creating a classroom community where students become leaders, Smith helps students recognize their value and know that their voices matter.



- **Honor Roll Teacher Frances Hardy**

State Board of Education member Libby Swad (left in photo) and State Superintendent Jim Rex congratulate Honor Roll Teacher Frances L. Hardy, a language arts teacher at Spartanburg High School in Spartanburg School District 7. She has taught for 23 years and is National Board-certified. Hardy describes her teaching style as “firm but fair.” She insists on having structure in her classroom because too many students come from backgrounds that have little structure.



- **State Teacher of the Year Ann Marie Taylor**

State Board member Diane Sumpter (left in photo) and State Superintendent Jim Rex congratulate Teacher of the Year Ann Marie Taylor, a special education teacher at Pine Tree Hill Elementary School in Kershaw County. Taylor considers herself a “drawn” teacher who, when times get difficult to bear, hangs in there and gives it her all because teaching students with special needs is her calling. She has taught for six years.



- **Outgoing State Board Members Saluted for Service**

Superintendent of Education Jim Rex (center in photo) recognizes four members of the State Board of Education whose terms of office expired at the end of the December 2007. The outgoing board members receiving thanks for their service were (from left) Joe Isaac of Pawleys Island, who represented the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit; John Tindal of Manning, representing the Third Judicial Circuit; Lisa Stokes of Bamberg, representing the Second Judicial Circuit; and Dr. Daniel Varat of Greenville, representing the 13th Judicial Circuit.

